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EMBAIXADA DE PORTUGAL
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C O M M U N I Q U É

TAKING NOTICE OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED THE 11th DECEMBER 1989 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA, WITH THE AIM OF A MUTUAL EXPLORATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE ZONE OF THE CONTINENTAL PLATFORM BETWEEN THE SOUTH COAST OF EAST TIMOR AND THE NORTH OF AUSTRALIA, USUALLY KNOWN AS "TIMOR GAP",

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT DECIDES:

- TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS REPUDIATION AND ITS PROTEST REGARDING THAT EVENT AND TO REAFFIRM ITS DETERMINATION IN USING ALL LEGITIMATE MEANS AT ITS REACH TO STAKE THE CLAIM OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE.
- EFFECTIVELY, THE ABOVE MENTIONED AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES A CLEAR AND FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, CONSIDERING THAT NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL (OF THE UNITED NATIONS) DO NOT RECOGNIZE INDONESIA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER EAST TIMOR, MILITARY AND ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED SINCE DECEMBER 1975.
- BECAUSE THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION HAS NOT YET BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE, THE UNITED NATIONS STILL CONSIDER THAT TERRITORY AS "NON-AUTONOMOUS", HAVING PORTUGAL AS ADMINISTRATIVE POWER.
- THOSE VIEWS HAVE BEEN REPEATDLY CONVEYED TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BUT IT DID NOT PREVENT THE CONSUMMATION OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED AGREEMENT.
- THEREFORE THE AUSTRALIAN'S GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE NOT ONLY VIOLATES THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS RESOURCES, BUT ALSO DISRESPECTS THE PORTUGUESE STATUTE ON THAT MATTER.
- ACCORDINGLY, AUSTRALIA'S AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL WAS CALLED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHERE IT WAS FORMALLY HANDED

TO HIM OUR VEHEMENT PROTEST BY THE SIGNING OF THAT AGREEMENT. DIPLOMATIC NOTES OF SIMILAR PURPORT WILL ALSO BE DELIVERED TO THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL SECRETARY THROUCH OUR EMBASSIES IN CAMBERRA AND NEW YORK.

FURTHERMORE, IT WAS DECIDED TO KEEP IN LISBON FOR CONSULTATIONS THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA.